

P.A.W.S. FOCUS- SAFETY IN RESOLVING CONFLICTS

Last week, we had some physical altercations in the school. We would like you to have a guided discussion with your students in Primetime this week using the following questions and tips on how to resolve conflict without using physical force. You may use all or simply a few of the questions to lead the discussion, but we feel it is **extremely important** to go over this information in order to prevent any students from harming others.

**Information derived from <http://www.livewiremedia.com/BigChangesBigChoices>

Discussion Questions:

1. Agree or disagree: When you get into a conflict with someone, it's okay to hit and call names.
2. Do the conflicts here at school sometimes get violent? Why? Are these things really worth getting violent over? Is it okay to get violent? What's bad about violence?
3. Have you ever gotten into a fight because you were upset about something else? - What happened? - How did you feel afterward? - What did you learn from that?
4. When somebody says something insensitive to you, should you confront him/her on it? What's a good way to do that without starting a fight?
5. Have you ever said something in the heat of an argument that you regretted later?
6. Do you find it easy or difficult to apologize when you are wrong? Why is that?
7. Why are some people violent?
8. Whose responsibility is it to prevent violence? (Tip: It's yours, because you are the only person you have control over.)
9. Do you think there's something wrong with someone who will just walk away from a fight?
10. Some people think it's very hard to just walk away from a fight. Why do they feel that way? Do you agree? What could you do to make it easier for yourself to walk away?
11. What are the benefits of resolving conflicts in a peaceful and positive way?

HOW TO PREVENT FIGHTS:

Conflict is a normal part of life. We all have occasional conflicts, even with people we love. But we shouldn't let little conflicts turn into big fights, especially violent ones. Here are some rules for keeping conflicts from getting out of control.

- Tell the other person what's bothering you - but do it nicely.
- Don't let your emotions take control.
- Listen to the other person.
- Try to understand how the other person is feeling.
- No name-calling or insults.
- No hitting.
- Don't yell or raise your voice.
- Look for a compromise.
- And, if all else fails, ask somebody else to help!